

Christ Church Rectory, formerly Lee House
118 Washington Street
Norwich
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-261

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. CONN-261

CHRIST CHURCH RECTORY, FORMERLY LEE HOUSE

Street Address: 118 Washington Street, Norwich, New London County,
Connecticut

Present Owner: Christ Church, Norwich, Connecticut

Present Occupant: Christ Church Rector

Present Use: Rectory

Brief Statement Built in 1809, this medium-sized frame house has
of Significance: many interesting details characteristic of the period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: The land on which the house stands was originally owned by Colonel Simon Lathrop. In 1798 Elijah Lathrop, great-grandson of Colonel Simon Lathrop, conveyed the property to his son, Lynde Lathrop, who moved an earlier house to the site of the present one. Lynde Lathrop sold the property to Nicholas Norris, who sold to Jesse Brown, who sold to his married daughter, Ann Vernet. Ann Vernet's husband built the present house, replacing the earlier one, in 1809. In the same year, 1809, the house was mortgaged to Calvin Goddard, and finally sold to him in 1812 for \$7,500. Goddard sold the house the same year he got ownership, 1812, to Benjamin Lee. The house remained in the Lee family until 1873, when it was sold to Albert P. Sturtevant for \$32,500. In 1920 the house was conveyed to Christ Church by Celeste L. Beckwith.
- B. Date of erection: 1809.
- C. Sources of information: Stephen deP. Gilbert, "The Christ Church Rectory, Norwich, Conn." (Student paper in office of Professor Carroll L. V. Meeks, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut; December 15, 1958).
Ada Chase, "Christ Church Rectory, Norwich, Connecticut," Colonial Dames Series, ms. at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Connecticut; October 4, 1948.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
1. Architectural character: This is a medium-sized frame house with extensive ornamental detail, built in 1809.
 2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The house is two stories high on a sloping lot putting the cellar at ground level in the rear. The house is five bays wide, about 45 feet by 45 feet, and faces east.
2. Foundations: Regular ashlar.
3. Wall construction: Frame with clapboards painted light blue-gray. There are fluted, Ionic pilasters at the corners on the east and south elevations.
4. Porches and stoops. There is a flagstone entrance stoop two steps high. There is a one-story high porch at the first floor level across the full width of the rear raised above the ground-level cellar on wood posts. The porch is divided into five bays: the northernmost is enclosed; the others screened. The cornice has scroll modillions.
5. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys in the north and south end walls.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance in the east elevation has a double door in a round-headed opening. The two doors, with heavily raised panels and moldings are apparently later. The doorway has fluted Ionic pilasters and a pediment with moldings similar to the main cornice of the house. The horizontal cornice of the pediment is broken with round head of the doorway projecting into the pediment.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The windows are double hung with six-light sash over single light. There are no shutters. There is a Palladian window over the entrance with a highly ornamented frame similar to the doorway below. Front windows have dog-eared frames.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape: Hip roof.
 - b. Cornice: Modillion cornice with a cyma recta crown mold and a fret bed mold.
 - c. Dormers: Three dormers centered over the east, south, and west elevations.

C. Technical Description of Interiors: The house has a central hall type plan, with a U-shaped plan in the central hall. The main floor has four rooms, a living room in the southeast corner, a study in the southwest corner, a dining room in the northeast corner and a kitchen in the northwest corner.

D. Site:

1. Orientation and general setting: The house faces east on a northwest corner lot in a residential district of the city. The lot slopes about ten feet from front to rear.
2. Walks: Flagstone walks.
3. Landscaping: Informal landscaping with lawn, trees, and shrubs.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
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